



Discover Nature Schools – Outdoor Skills Teacher Trainings

To expand outdoor skills opportunities for Missouri schools, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) has developed a multi-day outdoor skills teacher workshop. Each of the days can be attended independently of each other, depending on the teacher's needs. Topics covered will include Hunter Education, Missouri National Archery in the Schools Program (MoNASP), and Discover Nature-Fishing.



Hunter Education Student Certification

Date: Monday, June 20, 2016
Time: 8:30-5:00
Location: Jay Henges Shooting Range
and Outdoor Education Center

Hunter Education Instructor Certification

Date: Tuesday, June 21, 2016
Time: 8:30-5:00
Location: Jay Henges Shooting Range
and Outdoor Education Center

MONASP Basic Archery Instructor Certification

Date: Wednesday, June 22, 2016
Time: 8:30-5:00
Location: St. Peters Catholic School
Gymnasium/Parish Center

Discover Nature- Fishing Instructor Training

Date: Thursday, June 23, 2016
Time: 9:00-4:00
Location: August A Busch Conservation
Area

For more information teachers should contact:

Scott.Sarantakis@mdc.mo.gov, 314-301-1506 ext. 4217



Jay Henges Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

1100 Antire Road, High Ridge, MO 63049 • mdc.mo.gov/node/299



From the east/St. Louis
I-44 west to Beaumont Antire Road, exit 269. Left over I-44 to Antire Road. Right on Antire. One hundred feet to entrance.

From the west/Eureka
I-44 east to Beaumont Antire Road, exit 269. Follow exit lane around to top.

HOURS:

April 1 – November 30

Wednesday: 11 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Thursday and Saturday: 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Friday and Sunday: 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

December 1 – March 31

Wednesday – Sunday: 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **636-938-9548** or email henges.range@mdc.mo.gov with your name and phone number to sign up for a program requiring registration. Up to two reservations are allowed per registration; groups should contact the range for more information. If you are unable to attend, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Beginning Handgun

May 5 • Thursday • 6 – 9 p.m.

(Ages 16 and up)

This will include handgun operation, shooting fundamentals, safety, maintenance, and safe storage. We start with a classroom session then move to a live-fire session on the range. Although equipment and ammunition will be provided, you may bring your own handgun and ammunition to the live-fire session. Anyone under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin May 12.)

Rifle Care, Cleaning, and Storage Basics

May 12 • Thursday • 6 – 9 p.m.

(Ages 9 and up)

Even new firearms from the store must be cleaned and properly lubricated before shooting or hunting. Keeping that rifle shooting, whether a family heirloom, expensive sporting or competition gun, or a hard working basic shooter, needs proper care and attention to keeping it working and prevent worn or damaged parts. Come let us teach you the proper techniques and overview some of the multitude of products and claims out there to maintain firearms. All firearms and equipment will be provided. No personal rifles allowed. (Reservations begin April 28.)

Beginning Youth .22 Target Rifle Shooting

May 21 • Saturday • 8 – 9:30 a.m.

(Ages 9 – 15)

Interested young people who have no experience shooting rifles are invited to participate this session on learning safety and the proper techniques of shooting .22 caliber rimfire rifles in a controlled safe environment. Firearms, ammunition, and safety equipment is provided. (Reservations begin May 7.)



Women's Beginning Trapshooting

May 26 • Thursday • 6 – 9 p.m.

(Experienced women shotgun shooters, ages 16 and up)

If you enjoy shooting a shotgun, but do not know the specifics of the game of trapshooting, then join us for this program. We'll learn the basics of trapshooting, whether for fun or competition. We'll cover appropriate guns and ammunition, rules of the game, etiquette on the field, and shoot a round for score. Shotguns and ammo will be provided, or you may bring your own 12 or 20 gauge shotgun and use our ammo or other gauge with your own ammo (shot size 7 or smaller) Shotgun shooting experience is required. (Reservations begin April 21.)

To save paper, sign up to receive a direct link on-line to Conservation Connections by visiting www.mdc.mo.gov/govdelivery. Enter your email and subscribe to "News, Events and Newsletters - St. Louis Region."

Unless otherwise indicated, youth under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 • mdc.mo.gov/node/270

Basic Archery

May 14 • Saturday • 9 a.m. – noon
(Ages 8 and up)

Acquire the knowledge and skills needed to safely participate in this fun and rewarding outdoor activity. Our instructors will help participants develop their archery skills as we cover types of bows, parts of the bow and arrow, proper stance, grip, form, release, and other important tips and techniques. Ages 10-16 must be accompanied by an adult. This program will take place in the August A. Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classrooms. (Reservations begin April 14).

Survival Tactics for the Outdoorsman

May 18 • Wednesday • 6 – 9 p.m.
May 19 • Thursday • 6 – 9 p.m.
(Ages 11 and up)

Are you prepared if an emergency happens during a hunting or outdoor adventure? This two evening class will teach the survival necessities when stranded, lost, or injured, in the woods. Our experts will go over what to eat, water purification, shelter, and other aspects that will help you survive. This program will take place in the August A. Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classrooms. Must attend Wednesday in order to attend Thursday. Children ages 11 - 16 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin April 18).

Beginning Atlatl

May 21 • Saturday • 9 a.m. – noon
(Ages 11 and up)

Come join our experts and learn the art of atlatl. The atlatl predates the bow and arrow and in 2010 became a legal method of harvesting a deer in Missouri. It is used to throw a 4 - 6 foot-long, spear-like projectile known as a dart. The atlatl is a wooden shaft approximately a foot-and-a-half long with a socket or knock at the rear to engage the dart. The dart is placed along the shaft with its back end resting in the socket or knock. The hunter grips the atlatl near its front end and performs a forward throw using the upper arm and wrist. The flipping motion of the atlatl creates angular momentum that propels the dart with greater speed and power than can be achieved with the arm alone. This program will take place in the August A. Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classrooms. (Reservations begin April 21.)

Basic Shotgun

May 25 • Wednesday • 6 – 8:30 p.m.
May 26 • Thursday • 6 – 9 p.m.
(Ages 12 and up)

This is an introduction course to shotguns. Class will start in the August A. Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classrooms where you will learn safety, actions, chokes, stance, and how to choose and shoot shotguns. Then you will go to the range for live fire, including some clay target shooting. Children ages 12-16 must be accompanied by an adult. Not recommended for students under 90 lbs. (Reservations begin April 26.)



Due to the range closure, all Busch Range programs will be held at the Busch Conservation Area classrooms in the St. Louis Regional Office unless otherwise noted.

Programs are free. Call **636- 441-4554** to register Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

The Missouri Department of Conservation's August A. Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center in St. Charles is being renovated into an expanded state-of-the-art shooting range featuring more shooting stations and classroom facilities.

To expedite the renovations to the existing site, the shooting range is temporarily closed for public use and will remain closed for the duration of the renovation project. The new range will incorporate the most current national shooting range design standards, including an increased number of shooting stations, new classroom facility, and other building improvements for user convenience, safety, and reduced waiting times. For further information and a camera view of the construction site visit mdc.mo.gov key word "Busch Range".

Unless otherwise indicated, youth under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 • mdc.mo.gov/node/271



From I-44 east take the Watson Road exit and turn left on Geyer. Cross over the bridge and turn left on Cragwold Road. Follow one mile to the entrance. Enjoy nature exhibits, attend programs, purchase hunting and fishing permits, browse through a nature-related gift shop, and pick up free conservation brochures. Outdoors, enjoy three miles of hiking trails through oak-hickory forest.

HOURS:

Building: Tuesday – Saturday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Area: Daily: 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. DST
8 a.m. – 6 p.m. CST

Programs are free. Call **314-301-1500** to register. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Conservation Success Stories

May 14 • Saturday • 10 – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 10 and up)

The Missouri Department of Conservation has been a nationwide leader in conservation since it was created in 1937. Many species of animals, including white-tailed deer, wild turkey, and bald eagles, were rarely seen in the early 1900's. Join MDC naturalists as we take a look at some of the department's greatest conservation success stories. Discover what you can do to help with ongoing conservation projects and to help write the next chapter in Missouri's Conservation Success Stories. (Reservations begin April 30.)

Babes in the Woods

May 12 • Thursday • 9:30 – 10 a.m. or 11 – 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 0-3)

It's never too early to introduce your little one to the wonders of nature and Spring is a great time to enjoy the outdoors! Join other parents and caregivers for a stroller walk at Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center and discover how nature appeals to our sense no matter what our age. (Reservations begin April 27.)

Scout Discovery Table: Bird ID/Flyways

May 14 • Saturday • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

(All ages)

Our discovery tables help Boy and Girl Scouts earn portions of their badges relating to nature and wildlife. This month, discover the wonders of Missouri birds and the location of their migratory flyways in a self-led program. Activities are designed for Cub Scout Tigers (Backyard Jungle), Wolves (Call of the Wild), Webelos (Into the Wild), and Boy Scouts (Fish and Wildlife Mgmt., Bird Study Badge). Activities for Girl Scouts are: Juniors (Animal Habitats & Camper Badge). Discovery tables are also open to the general public. (No reservations are required.)

You and Me under the Canopy

May 18 • Wednesday • 10 – 11 a.m.

(Ages 2 – 6)

Come see the topic we are exploring this month. Families, meet in the nature center lobby for a "nature" adventure. Make sure to dress for the weather because we won't be in the building long. Everyone will hike with the naturalist to a special place in the forest and enjoy a nature story under the tree canopy. Siblings are welcome. (In case of inclement weather the program will be indoors and may be shortened.) (Reservations begin May 4.)

Nature's Nook Book Club for Adults

May 20 • Friday • 10 – 11:30 a.m.

(Adults)

Our book club meets every other month to discuss an important work of fiction or non-fiction related to the natural world. Join us this month as we delve into *The Big Year: A Tale of Man, Nature, and Fowl Obsession*, by Mark Obmascik. Information meets entertainment in this book as we plunge into the fascinating world of birders. Start reading, and we will see you soon! (Reservations begin May 6.)



"The world looks different after the sun goes down . . . unique, mysterious and intriguing. These photographs are a collection of twilight scenes, starscapes, star trails and moonlit landscapes over the most beautiful conservation areas in Missouri, all revealed by the magic of long exposures." – Dan Zarlenga

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 • mdc.mo.gov/node/271

Butterfly Magic
with *The Fishin' Magicians*
May 13 • Friday • 7 p.m.
(All ages)

Egg. Larva. Pupa. Butterfly.
That's magic! *The Fishin' Magicians* make learning this basic science fun for the whole family using magic, puppets and humor. Join the adventure with them and Pipevine, the caterpillar, as they help you understand the importance of butterflies and caterpillars in ecosystems. (Reservations are required and begin immediately.)



Forest Park Office

5595 Grand Drive, St. Louis, MO 63112 • mdc.mo.gov/node/10254



From I-44 take Kingshighway north to West Pine Blvd, turn left. Follow West Pine to Lindell, turn left. Continue on Lindell past Union Drive to Cricket, turn left. Take first right onto Grand Ave. The visitor's center is on the right.

HOURS:

Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **314-877-6014** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

PLEASE NOTE: The Forest Park Office is relocating to South St. Louis. While the move is underway, reservations will be handled through the Columbia Bottom Conservation Area office at **314-877-6014** Wednesday - Sunday.

Scope It Out

May 25 • Wednesday • 10 a.m. – noon
(Ages 6 – 12)

Catch an up close view of the plants and animals within the Forest Park prairie. We will venture through the native wildflowers and grasses to collect a few specimens. Using our field scopes, we will uncover and see the natural world at 20X magnification. Dress for the weather and bring a water bottle. This program meets at the Forest Park Hatchery and Educational Fishing Lakes in Forest Park. (Reservations begin May 4.)

It Takes Two – Water and Trees

June 21 – 22 • Tuesday and Wednesday • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
(Ages 9 – 13)

This year our mini summer camp will meet at two different places; the Forest Park Hatchery and Kennedy Forest. Activities include fishing, water exploration, forest floor digging, and tree/canopy climbing with Vertical Voyages! Participants must sign up for both days. Bring a sack lunch and water bottle. Completed registration, including a waiver and emergency contact sheet, must be received by May 23. Applicants will then be picked for camp through a lottery system. (Applications are available beginning May 4.)

Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

801 Strodtman Road, St. Louis, MO 63138 • mdc.mo.gov/node/298



From I-270 north, take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side.

HOURS:

Building: Wednesday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday – Sunday: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Area: One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset except authorized activities.

Programs are free. Call **314-877-6014** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

River Clean-up at the Confluence

May 14 • Saturday • 9 a.m. – noon

(All ages)

This is not your ordinary trash pickup day! Missouri River Relief and partners will take you by motor boat to pre-scouted river bank locations for trash pickup on the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. After you're done, you'll return to headquarters for a free lunch and fun trash contest. So get shuttled and clean up with Missouri River Relief! Volunteers should dress in layers, wear sturdy close-toed shoes (no flip flops). Bring bug spray, sunscreen, hat, and snacks. For exact location, information, and to register go to www.riverrelief.org. (Pre-registration is requested, but not required.) *No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it's not the same river and he's not the same man. – Heraclitus*

Budding Photographers

May 16 • Monday • 9 – 11 a.m.

(All ages)

Spring has sprung and Mother Nature is gearing up to put on her springtime show. Grab your cameras and capture all the spectacular sites! We will start our session indoors to go over some beginner tips and tricks of photography. We will then venture out on the area to capture some of Mother Nature's finest work as it emerges from the ground. This program is intended for beginning photographers only. Bring any camera you would like, and come dressed for the weather. (Reservations begin May 4.)



Spring Senior Picnic at Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

May 17 • Tuesday • 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

(Senior adults)

Spring has finally arrived! Relax in the warm breeze while enjoying the sight and sounds of colorful birds, bees and butterflies in the prairies. Learn of the power and beauty of our two mighty rivers at Columbia Bottom Conservation Area. Our investigation will include some light walking with easy access to all the areas we visit. Please bring a sack lunch to eat in one of the covered pavilions. Water and dessert will be provided. (Reservations begin April 27.)

Blue Moon

May 21 • Saturday • 7:30 – 9 p.m.

(All Ages)

How can there be a blue moon in the middle of the month? We'll discuss this as we walk and view the sunset over the prairie and the moonrise over the Mississippi River. Both events occur within minutes of each other this night. Participants will walk about a mile on an uneven surface which may not be suitable for smaller children. Call for more details. Meet at Lot "L" about 4 miles from the front entrance. (Reservations begin May 4.)

August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 • mdc.mo.gov/node/300



Introduction to Bowfishing

May 5 • Thursday • 6 – 8 p.m.

May 7 • Saturday • 8 a.m. – noon

(Ages 12 and up)

This introductory two-day program is for beginners who want to learn how to get started in this exciting sport. We will go over the safety aspects, proper gear, fish ID, regulations, and ethics while in the classroom. All participants who attend the first day will have the opportunity to use department provided gear with guidance from staff on the second day (Field day location is dependent on water levels and accessibility). You must attend day one in order to participate on day two. A valid fishing or hunting permit is required in order to attend this program (15 years of age or younger / 65 years of age or older are exempt.) (Reservations begin April 21.)

Hiking Basics 101

May 14 • Saturday • 9 – 11 a.m.

(Ages 12 and up)

Are you eager to start hiking but don't know what you need? Join us as we talk about hiking gear and clothing, bringing children and dogs, and trail etiquette. You'll learn the difference between a hike and a walk and then end the program with a short beginner's hike! (Reservations begin April 29.)

Lewis Hike – Migrating Song Birds and Spring Wildflowers

May 14 • Saturday • 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

(Adults)

Join us for a refreshing spring hike through the forests at the Weldon Spring Conservation Area. This is a good time of the year to hear and see both migrating and resident songbirds. This area is also a great place to see spring wildflowers and beautiful views of the Missouri River Valley from the bluffs! (Reservations begin April 29.)

Goodness Snakes Alive!

May 20 • Friday • 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 am

(Ages 4 – 6)

Are snakes really slimy? How do they move, smell, hear and eat? Learn the answers to those questions and lots of other neat stuff about snakes. You will be able to observe live snakes found in Missouri and even touch some of them if you want to. Come prepared to take a short hike to see if we can observe any snakes in their natural habitat. (Reservations begin May 6.)



From I-64/40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on D for approximately two miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D.

HOURS:

Building: Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Area: Daily: 4 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **636-441-4554** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Awesome Snakes and Lizards

May 21 • Saturday • 9:30 – 11 a.m.

(Ages 7 – 12)

Snakes and lizards are really interesting reptiles. Come and discover many amazing things about the snakes and lizards that live in Missouri. You will be able to observe live snakes and lizards and even touch some. Come prepared to take a short hike to see if we can observe any snakes or lizards in their natural habitat. (Reservations begin May 6.)



Rockwoods Reservation

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 • mdc.mo.gov/node/272



From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road.

HOURS:

Building: Monday–Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Area: Sunrise to one-half hour after sunset except authorized activities.

Programs are free. Call **636-458-2236** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

A Walk in the Woods

May 7 • Saturday • 9 – 11:30 a.m.
(Families)

Let's spend a beautiful mid spring morning hiking the 2.2 mile Rock Quarry Trail in Rockwoods Reservation. There will be many native wildflowers and ferns along the way, and the birds that call Rockwoods their home will be in full spring song. You will learn some of the amazing history of Rockwoods as we pass scars of man's presence over 100 years ago. This is a great opportunity for those looking to spend some time in nature enjoying spring. (Reservations begin April 22.)

Soap Making the Old Fashioned Way

May 7 • Saturday • 1 – 4 p.m.
(Adults 18 and up)

Did you ever wonder how soap was originally discovered and made? Learn the basics of making soap, the role wildlife played in the historic process, and how it differs today. Try your hand at making different soaps, including insect-repellant bars. (Reservations begin April 22.)

The Nature Journaling Group: Spring Wildflowers

May 11 • Wednesday • 9 – 11:30 a.m.
(Adults)

Doodling, sketching, and fun are on the agenda as we explore the spring wildflowers at Rockwoods Reservation. Our nature journaling series continues as we observe spring wildflowers, and utilize various methods to show different types of information about them on our journaling pages. Please dress for the weather. (Reservations begin April 14.)

Beginning Archery

May 14 • Saturday • 10 a.m. – noon
(Ages 10 and up)

Ready, Aim, Fire! Come and learn the basics of safe archery and practice your skills in an open field with stationary targets. All equipment will be provided. Please meet at the pavilion. The entire program will be outdoors, so please dress for the weather. Younger siblings are welcome to observe; however, the equipment may only be used by those who are 10 years and up. (Reservations begin April 29.)

Birds, Blooms, and Mushrooms at Rockwoods Range

May 17 • Tuesday • noon – 4 p.m.
(Ages 12 and up)

Join the Naturalists as they explore the birds, blooms, and mushrooms of spring! Explore the Round House Loop Trail of Rockwoods Range. The pace of the hike will be leisurely to allow for exploration. The challenging 3.5 mile trail winds through various elevations and uneven terrain. Program begins from the Fox Creek Parking lot off Fox Creek Rd at the South end of Rockwoods Range. (Reservations begin May 3.)

Upcoming Program: Mini-Adventure Camp!

July 6 – 7 • Wednesday and Thursday • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
(Ages 10 – 14)

Explore the trails and habitats at Rockwoods Reservation! This "mini" camp will include hikes, aquatic studies, outdoor skills, live animals, and more! Participants must sign up for both days, and bring a lunch and water bottle each day. Completed registration, including a permission form and emergency contact sheet, must be received by June 6. Applicants will then be picked for camp through a lottery system. Please call Rockwoods to request an application. (Applications are available beginning May 4.)